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Letter dated 12 September 2012 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith the report on the work of the Security Council during the presidency of the Republic of Azerbaijan in May 2012 (see annex). This report has been prepared under my supervision in consultation with the other members of the Security Council.

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Agshin **Mehdiyev**
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
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Annex to the letter dated 12 September 2012 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Assessment of the work of the Security Council during the presidency of Azerbaijan (May 2012)

Introduction

During the month of May 2012, the Security Council held 14 public meetings and 16 closed consultations. The Council adopted three resolutions and one presidential statement and issued seven statements to the press.

Africa

Sudan/South Sudan

On 2 May, the Council adopted unanimously resolution 2046 (2012), in which it condemned the repeated incidents of cross-border violence between the Sudan and South Sudan, including seizure of territory, support to proxy forces and aerial bombing. The Council decided that the Sudan and South Sudan must immediately cease all hostilities, withdraw forces, activate previously agreed security mechanisms and resume negotiations. The Council further decided that the Government of the Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM)-North must reach a negotiated settlement in Blue Nile and Southern Kordofan States on the basis of the Framework Agreement of 28 June. The Council also strongly urged the Government of the Sudan and SPLM-North to accept the tripartite proposal to permit humanitarian access to the affected population in the two areas, ensuring, in accordance with applicable international law, including applicable international humanitarian law, and guiding principles of emergency humanitarian assistance, the safe, unhindered and immediate access of United Nations and other humanitarian personnel, as well as the delivery of supplies and equipment, in order to allow such personnel to efficiently perform their task of assisting the conflict-affected civilian population. On all issues regarding compliance with the resolution, the Council requested the Secretary-General to work closely with the African Union and other African partners and inform the Council within 15 days and at two-weekly intervals thereafter. The Council expressed its intention, in the event that any or all of the parties had not complied with its decisions, to take appropriate additional measures under Article 41 of the Charter as necessary.

On 16 May, the Council was briefed in closed consultations by the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Sudan and South Sudan, Haile Menkerios, on the compliance of the two countries with the provisions of resolution 2046 (2012).

On 17 May, the Council adopted unanimously resolution 2047 (2012), by which it extended the mandate of the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei for six months. The Council expressed its intention to review the mission's mandate after four months for possible reconfiguration in the light of the compliance of the two countries with resolution 2046 (2012) and their commitments as set forth in the Agreements of 20 and 29 June and 30 July 2011, including the

redeployment of all forces from the Safe Demilitarized Border Zone, achieving full operational capability for the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism, and completing the full demilitarization of the Abyei area.

On 31 May, the Council was briefed in closed consultations on compliance by the Sudan and South Sudan with resolution 2046 (2012) by the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Hervé Ladsous, and the Secretary-General's Special Envoy for the Sudan and South Sudan. The Council members welcomed the withdrawal of military personnel of the two countries from the Abyei area, emphasized that full withdrawal must include police forces, including oil police, and welcomed the resumption of talks between the two countries on 29 May 2012 in Addis Ababa under the auspices of the African Union High-level Implementation Panel. They encouraged both parties to keep momentum towards meeting all outstanding obligations under resolution 2046 (2012) and expressed their concern over the lack of humanitarian access in Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile States.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

On 3 May, the Council was briefed in closed consultations by the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations on the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Following the consultations the Council issued a statement to the press, in which the Council members expressed their serious concern over the recent attacks by armed groups in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, in particular former elements of the Congrès national pour la défense du peuple, under the leadership of Bosco Ntaganda, against the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and called for an immediate end to the rebellion. They further expressed deep concern over the worsening security and humanitarian situation in the area, and particularly the increasing number of displaced persons in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and refugees in neighbouring countries.

On 14 May, the Council was briefed in closed consultations by the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations on the attacks on peacekeepers of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo in Bunyakiri, South Kivu, on 14 May, which resulted in serious injuries to at least 11 Pakistani soldiers.

The Council issued a statement to the press, in which the members of the Council condemned in the strongest terms the aforementioned attacks and expressed their sympathy to those wounded in the attacks, as well as to the Government of Pakistan. They also reiterated their serious concern over the deteriorating security and humanitarian situation in the Kivus and the impact on the Congolese population. They encouraged the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to ensure that the perpetrators of the attacks were brought to justice swiftly.

Guinea-Bissau

On 7 May, the Council was briefed at an open meeting by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau, Joseph Mutaboba, who presented a special report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Guinea-Bissau (S/2012/280). Statements were also delivered by the Minister for External Relations of Angola (as Chair of the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries), the Minister for Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation and Communities of Guinea-Bissau, the

Permanent Representative of Brazil (as Chair of the Guinea-Bissau configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission) and the Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).

On 8 May, the members of the Council issued a statement to the press, recalling the presidential statement (S/PRST/2012/15) of 21 April 2012, in which they had strongly condemned the military coup in Guinea-Bissau, and demanded the immediate restoration of the constitutional order. The members of the Council welcomed the initiatives of international partners to address the current crisis in Guinea-Bissau, especially the mediation efforts led by ECOWAS, and called on that organization, in coordination with the United Nations, the African Union and the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries, to pursue its efforts to implement its "zero-tolerance" policy against the unconstitutional takeover of power in Guinea-Bissau, and allow the restoration of the constitutional order.

Following the refusal of the "Military Command" in Guinea-Bissau to reinstate legitimate authority in the country, the Council on 18 May unanimously adopted resolution 2048 (2012), by which it imposed targeted travel bans against those seeking to prevent the restoration of the constitutional order or taking action that undermined stability in Guinea-Bissau, in particular those who played a leading role in the coup d'état of 12 April 2012 and who aimed, through their actions, at undermining the rule of law, curtailing the primacy of civilian power and furthering impunity and instability in the country. The Council also established a new sanctions committee, and requested the Secretary-General to be actively engaged in the mediation efforts to restore the constitutional order, so as to harmonize the respective positions of international bilateral and multilateral partners.

Libya

On 10 May, the Council received a briefing at an open meeting from the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya, Ian Martin, followed by closed consultations. The Special Representative emphasized that the efforts of the transitional authorities in Libya to establish a functioning State based on the rule of law and democracy deserved praise and support, but serious problems in governance, security, human rights and other areas should be faced squarely.

Following the briefing, Ambassador Moraes Cabral of Portugal, in his capacity as Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1970 (2011) concerning Libya, introduced the reports of the Committee. He turned first to the working document on the threat of arms proliferation from Libya to the wider region (see S/2012/178). Key findings of that document included the fact that, at the time of its writing, no man-portable air-defence systems originating from Libya had been seized outside the country. Nevertheless, significant threat variables existed, justifying further measures to mitigate the risk that those systems might pose. He noted that there was also clear evidence of significant quantities of other weapons having left Libya during the conflict and he added that the authorities in Libya must engage in the overall efforts to control weapons and combat illicit trafficking.

Turning to the final report of the Panel of Experts in accordance with resolution 1973 (2011) (S/2012/163), the Committee Chair underlined that the report contained a total of 21 recommendations, addressed to the Council, the

Committee or Member States, including Libya. He also noted that, as at 9 May, the Committee had processed a total of 38 notifications or exemption requests concerning the arms embargo, a total of 154 notifications or exemption requests concerning the asset freeze and a total of 25 requests for guidance. The Committee had reviewed reports from 57 Member States on their implementation of the relevant measures.

On 16 May, the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court, Luis Moreno-Ocampo, briefed the Council at an open meeting on the activities of the Office of the Prosecutor regarding the situation in Libya in furtherance of resolution 1970 (2011). The Permanent Representative of Libya also delivered a statement during the briefing.

The Prosecutor notified the Council members of the stated desire of the Government of Libya to investigate and prosecute in domestic courts the case against Saif al-Islam Qadhafi for serious crimes, including murder and rape, during the 2011 revolution. He also noted that Libyan authorities had pledged to attain the highest international standards in their proceedings and had asserted that Mr. Qadhafi had been kept in adequate conditions of detention, with access to humanitarian organizations and legal counsel. The Prosecutor also described developments in the case of the former Libyan intelligence chief, Abdullah al-Senussi, and investigations into other human rights abuses committed in Libya. He maintained that the Government's strategy to comprehensively address all crimes and end impunity must remain a priority and must address the transfer to central authorities and the screening of thousands of detainees in a timely manner.

The Council members commended the Prosecutor's Office for quickly and properly responding to the referral and the need to protect civilians by issuing arrest warrants to alleged perpetrators of the most serious crimes. They emphasized, however, that the proceedings must be conducted under international standards and that all perpetrators of human rights abuses must be held to account. In addition, they urged the swiftest possible transfer of detainees to Government control.

The representative of Libya said that the Libyan authorities would investigate all incidents and take appropriate actions afterward, such as compensating those harmed.

West Africa

On 11 May, the Council was briefed in closed consultations by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Office for West Africa, Said Djinnit, who noted that West Africa was confronted with a new wave of challenges to governance, peace consolidation and conflict prevention, as illustrated by the ongoing crises in the Sahel, especially in Mali and in Guinea-Bissau, as well as the overall threat posed by transnational organized crime and terrorism.

On 17 May, the Council held closed consultations on the forthcoming Council mission to Liberia, Côte d'Ivoire and Sierra Leone. The Council members finalized the terms of reference and the programme for the visit and agreed on the mission leaders (two co-leads for each country): the United States of America and Morocco for the Liberia segment; France and Togo for the Côte d'Ivoire segment; and the

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and South Africa for the Sierra Leone segment.

On 31 May, the Council received a briefing at an open meeting following the Security Council mission to West Africa (Liberia, Côte d'Ivoire and Sierra Leone) from 18 to 24 May 2012. The representative of the United States briefed the Council on the Liberian portion of the trip, the representative of France spoke on the Côte d'Ivoire segment, and the representative of South Africa reported on the trip to Sierra Leone. They noted that the future of United Nations peacekeeping missions in West Africa, as well as refugees, illicit drug trafficking and other cross-border concerns and domestic challenges such as youth unemployment and disputed land ownership had been among the top issues reviewed by the Security Council members on their mission to the region.

Somalia

On 15 May, the Council received a briefing at an open meeting from the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Political Office for Somalia, Augustine Mahiga, followed by closed consultations. The President of the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia, Sheikh Sharif Sheikh Ahmed, also delivered a statement during the briefing.

The Special Representative noted that Somalia's transitional leaders were making significant steps in completing the tasks required to end the political transition by August 2012, but were faced with tight deadlines. He introduced the Secretary-General's latest report on Somalia (S/2012/283), which provided an update on major developments in the political, security, humanitarian, recovery and human rights areas in the period from 9 December 2011 to 15 April 2012. The report also assessed the progress made in the implementation of the road map for completing the political transition, which was due to end on 20 August 2012.

President Sheikh Sharif Sheikh Ahmed requested the international community to redouble its efforts to assist the country in completing the current phase as scheduled, so as not to provide any opportunity for the return of anarchy and terrorism. He asked the Security Council to support Somalia in strengthening the work of the Constituent Assembly and encouraging reconciliation. He also requested the Council to take a firm stand against those who created obstacles to peace, and to support the building of a Somali army, the training of a police force and intelligence service, and the development of a counter-terrorism plan.

Council members welcomed the progress towards completing the political transition, and the advances made in security. They commended the role of the African Union Mission in Somalia in that regard and concurred with the need for continued support to the mission. They also expressed concern over the prodigious challenges that still faced the country, and in particular the fact that many road map deadlines had been missed. Many speakers underlined the primary responsibility of Somali leaders in meeting the August deadline. Council members also condemned continuing terrorist attacks and stressed the need to build up the national security sector.

On the same date, the Council issued a statement to the press, in which the members of the Council noted that the political process in Somalia was at a critical phase, with only three months to go until the end of the transitional period on

20 August. The Council members welcomed progress so far in the implementation of the road map to end the transition, and reaffirmed their commitment to supporting the process. They expressed concern that some deadlines for the completion of tasks had already been missed and urged the transitional federal institutions and all other signatories of the road map to redouble their efforts to complete the road map tasks. They stressed the primary responsibility of the Somali parties for reaching agreement on broad-based, inclusive and representative post-transitional arrangements, in line with the Djibouti Agreement, the road map and the Garoowe Principles.

Asia

Afghanistan

On 17 May, the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Valerie Amos, briefed the Council in closed consultations on her recent visit to Afghanistan. She noted that the purpose of her visit was to assess the humanitarian situation in the country. She informed the Council about her meetings with representatives of the Government and humanitarian partners to discuss the humanitarian situation in the country, and on her visits to an informal settlement in Kabul, and displaced persons in Mazar-e-Sharif and Balkh Province to see the devastating impact of the erosion of the Amu Darya riverbank on local communities.

She stressed that the United Nations and its partners would continue to deliver humanitarian assistance where needed, and to provide support in a way that would help the Government of Afghanistan to build its capacity to respond and to better prepare for disasters. She underlined the importance of investment in human development and the delivery of critical services to support livelihoods, primary education and health care. She also stressed the necessity for the functioning rule of law and for continued mobilization of resources to help people in acute need, especially in the light of the eventual withdrawal of the International Security Assistance Force in 2014.

The members of the Council emphasized the importance and timeliness of the Coordinator's visit to Afghanistan not only in terms of her familiarization with the humanitarian situation in the country, but also in terms of conveying a message to the international community on the need for increased support to the Afghan authorities. They reaffirmed their commitments to long-term support to Afghanistan beyond the 2014 date for transition to national leadership.

Europe

United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo

On 14 May, the Council held a debate on the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK). The Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of UNMIK, Farid Zarif, briefed the Council and introduced the report of the Secretary-General on UNMIK (S/2012/275), covering the activities of the Mission from 16 January to 15 April 2012.

The Special Representative reported that voting in the Serbian general and presidential elections was facilitated safely and calmly in Kosovo on 6 May, and said that a highly professional facilitation operation was organized and carried out by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, in line with the provisions of resolution 1244 (1999). In addition, he noted that European integration had taken significant steps forward with the decision to grant candidate status to Serbia and also to launch a feasibility study in Kosovo. He reported that the absence of unity of purpose among key international actors sometimes undermined the European prospects for the region, and called on them to be proactive in using their influence with the parties to encourage them to engage with each other on all issues, including those that were fundamental to reconciliation and the protection of minority rights.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs of Serbia, Vuk Jeremić, and Mr. Enver Hoxhaj of Kosovo delivered statements during the debate. Following those statements, Council members exchanged views on recent developments.

Bosnia and Herzegovina

On 15 May, the Council held a debate on Bosnia and Herzegovina. The High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina, Valentin Inzko, briefed the Council and introduced the forty-first report of the High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina, transmitted by a letter dated 9 May 2012 from the Secretary-General (S/2012/307).

He reported that on 10 February, more than 16 months after the October 2010 general elections, Bosnia and Herzegovina had appointed a State Government. He also informed the Council of the adoption of the State Aid Law and the Census Law, both of which are important for the European Union accession process. In addition, leaders of the six main parties had reached a political agreement on two of the issues which had been identified as preconditions for the closure of the Office of the High Representative. He also stressed that in spite of the progress several major challenges remained, including a number of troubling political statements challenging the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina (the Dayton Agreement) and Bosnia and Herzegovina's territorial integrity.

Council members commended the recent progress and exchanged views on the latest developments.

Middle East

The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question

On 29 May, the Council received a briefing at an open meeting from the Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General, Robert Serry, followed by closed consultations.

The Special Coordinator reported that the past month had been characterized by several challenging events but that each had been overcome for now and we were possibly moving in a more positive direction. He said the parties had exchanged letters in which they outlined their respective requirements for direct talks to continue. The Palestinians delivered a letter on 17 April and the Israelis responded

on 12 May. The exchange was kept confidential and led to quiet direct engagement, which should be welcomed and encouraged. In parallel, however, a series of developments threatened to inflame tensions. He warned that if the parties did not grasp the current opportunity for a lasting peace, we could be moving down a path towards a one-State reality. He expressed hope that the parties would find a way forward to substantive talks in the coming months. He noted that during the reporting period settlement activity had continued and reiterated that those actions were contrary to international law and Israel's commitments under the road map, and should stop.

Turning to Gaza, he stressed that reconstruction and economic growth in the Gaza Strip remained fundamental objectives of the United Nations. He noted that the total value of approved United Nations works in the Gaza Strip involving potential dual-use materials that required Israel's approval currently exceeded $365 million, with $96 million-worth of projects still under Israeli review, adding that such projects now enabled United Nations agencies to play a major role in international efforts for priority recovery and reconstruction in Gaza.

Syrian Arab Republic

On 8 May, the Joint Special Envoy of the United Nations and the League of Arab States to Syria, Kofi Annan, briefed the Council via videoconference from Geneva about the latest developments in the Syrian Arab Republic following the adoption of Council resolutions 2042 (2012) and 2043 (2012). He warned that the situation in the country could slide into civil war if more was not done to end the violence. The Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations also provided an update to the Council about the deployment of the United Nations Supervision Mission in the Syrian Arab Republic (UNSMIS). The Council members underlined once again the necessity for the urgent implementation of all elements of the Envoy's six-point plan.

On 10 May, the Council issued a statement to the press, in which the members of the Council condemned in the strongest terms the terrorist attacks that occurred in Damascus on 10 May, causing numerous deaths and injuries. They expressed their deep sympathy and sincere condolences to the victims of those heinous acts and to their families.

After a briefing from the Chief Military Observer and Head of UNSMIS, Major General Robert Mood, and the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations on 27 May, the Council issued a statement to the press, in which the members of the Council condemned in the strongest possible terms the killings, confirmed by United Nations observers, of dozens of men, women and children and the wounding of hundreds more in the village of El-Houleh, near Homs, in attacks that involved a series of Government artillery and tank shellings on a residential neighbourhood. The members of the Council also condemned the killing of civilians by shooting at close range and by severe physical abuse.

On 30 May, the Council was briefed in closed consultations on the situation in the Middle East (Syria) by the Deputy Joint Special Envoy of the United Nations and the League of Arab States to Syria, Jean-Marie Guéhenno, and the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations.

Yemen

On 21 May, the Council, in a statement to the press, condemned in the strongest terms the terrorist attack that occurred in Sana'a on 21 May, causing numerous deaths and injuries.

On 29 May, the Council received a briefing at an open meeting from the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Yemen, Jamal Benomar, followed by closed consultations. The representative of Yemen also delivered a statement during the briefing.

The Special Adviser noted that the Yemeni parties had made much progress in implementing the Transition Agreement signed in November 2011 and Security Council resolution 2014 (2011). He underlined, however, that a multitude of armed non-State actors, particularly Al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula, continued to compete for power. He warned that obstructionist efforts to impede President Hadi's reorganization and control of the military and security forces could derail Yemen's fragile transition process and result in serious instability. He said the national dialogue conference could help reduce such tensions. Describing progress made so far in preparations for such a dialogue, he said that the process must be designed and driven by the Yemenis themselves, which would require strong international support.

He noted that Yemen's security situation remained a source of major concern and that the Government's overall security capacity remained limited. He said the Houthis continued to assert their control over areas in the north; in the south, Yemeni forces had stepped up their campaign against Al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula and Ansar al-Sharia but those two entities had extended their reach to new areas. He said that separatist sentiments in the south had also been on the rise and incidents of abduction, assassination and hostage-taking had increased.

The Special Adviser also stressed that 10 million people were food insecure, half of those being in need of immediate assistance and almost 1 million children under the age of 5 suffering from malnutrition. More than a half million persons were internally displaced and the country hosted nearly 220,000 refugees with a high influx continuing. The consolidated appeal for $455 million was currently funded at only 43 per cent, while the need for additional humanitarian assistance had increased.

The representative of Yemen expressed appreciation for the work of the Special Adviser and the United Nations in assisting the transition process. He also agreed that Al-Qaida posed a serious threat and noted that the country had suffered from continued terrorist attacks. He also appealed to all Member States to provide the necessary support for refugees and displaced people, and to help with an increase in unemployment and a "general economic deterioration".

Lebanon

On 8 May, the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the implementation of Security Council resolution 1559 (2004), Terje Roed-Larsen, briefed the Council in closed consultations and introduced the fifteenth semi-annual report of the Secretary-General (S/2012/244), which provided a comprehensive assessment of the process of the implementation of the resolution since the issuance of the previous report on 19 October 2012 (S/2011/648).

During a briefing of 29 May, the Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, Robert Serry, said that the situation in the area of operations of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon remained generally quiet, with Israel conducting agreed-upon work on a wall to replace the existing technical fence near a sensitive area south of the Blue Line.

Thematic and general issues

Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts

On 4 May, in connection with its consideration of the item entitled "Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts", the Council held a thematic meeting on "Strengthening international cooperation in the implementation of counter-terrorism obligations". The meeting was chaired by the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Ilham Aliyev, and was attended by the Secretary-General, ministers, deputy ministers and other high-level representatives.

In preparation for the meeting, Azerbaijan circulated a concept paper (see S/2012/281), which provided background information about the objectives of the meeting. The paper emphasized a strong need to strengthen international cooperation with a view to implementing the existing counter-terrorism obligations in a timely and united manner, in particular through increasing capacity-building and assistance to States. In this regard, it underlined the importance of enhancing coordination, cooperation and interaction both among States and between the United Nations and other organizations.

Briefing the Council, the Secretary-General said that terrorism was a significant threat to peace and security, prosperity and people, and that the international community continued to pursue a robust and comprehensive response. He stressed that while collective efforts had disrupted attacks and disabled terrorist networks, recent attacks in some countries demonstrated that the threat was still formidable, and terrorist organizations continued to look for new havens, adopt new tactics and seek new targets. He went on to underline the need to focus on conditions conducive to spreading terrorism and the importance of an integrated approach to terrorism and violent extremism embodied in the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. He further added that in combating terrorism the international community must work as one, and that working together in undertakings ranging from strengthening law enforcement to tackling the underlying drivers of extremism could greatly reduce this major threat to peace and security.

The Council members expressed their concern that terrorism continued to pose a serious threat to international peace and security, the enjoyment of human rights and the social and economic development of all Member States, and undermine global stability and prosperity. Members also touched upon various counter-terrorism challenges, including the need for increased capacity-building and better coordination, and they emphasized the central role of the United Nations in global counter-terrorism efforts, while underlining the need for enhanced cooperation among Member States to effectively combat terrorism.

At the end of the meeting, the Council adopted a presidential statement (S/PRST/2012/17), in which it reiterated its strong and unequivocal condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations; noted the changing nature and

character of terrorism; recalled Member States' obligations to refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State and to refrain from providing any form of support to entities or persons involved in or associated with terrorist acts; reaffirmed that effective counter-terrorism measures and respect for human rights, fundamental freedoms and the rule of law were complementary and mutually reinforcing; and stressed the importance of respect and understanding for religious and cultural diversity throughout the world. The Council also emphasized the need for more enhanced cooperation and solidarity among Member States, particularly through bilateral and multilateral arrangements and agreements to prevent and suppress terrorist attacks, and reiterated its call upon Member States to strengthen cooperation at the international, regional and subregional levels, particularly through regional and subregional mechanisms and coordination and cooperation at the operational level. The Council underlined the importance of strengthening cooperation among Member States and with United Nations entities and subsidiary bodies with a view to enhancing the individual capabilities of Member States to effectively implement their counter-terrorism obligations.

Briefings by Chairmen of subsidiary bodies of the Security Council

On 10 May, the Council heard six-monthly briefings by the Permanent Representatives of Germany, India and South Africa in their respective capacities as Chairs of the Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011), the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) and the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004). The Chairs of the Committees with counter-terrorism mandates briefed the Council members on the joint efforts of the Committees and their expert groups, and individual activities of the Committees on outreach work, country visits, enhancing cooperation with international, regional and subregional bodies, increasing information exchanges, participating in joint meetings and maintaining reciprocal representation.

The briefing was followed by a debate, in which speakers commended the work of the three Chairs and welcomed steps taken by the Committees to keep their activities relevant and to assist Member States in complying with their obligations. They expressed strong support for close cooperation and effective coordination among the Committees and called for further enhancement of cooperation. Speakers also stressed the need to more effectively address, inter alia, the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism and violent extremism, the issues of capacity-building, incitement to terrorism, and compliance with international law, including human rights law, international humanitarian law and refugee law in the course of the fight against terrorism.